

The Truth About the Governor's Budget

Governor Barbour has worked hard to pull Mississippi out of its budget crisis – proposing nearly \$200 million in savings from within his own Administration. Despite these cost-saving measures to his own corner of state government, some have purposefully misstated changes to the Governor's Mansion, budget and the State's airplane fleet – in all less than 0.1% of the State's budget.

Governor's Office Budget the Same as Previous Governors

Governor Barbour's budget request for his office is similar to the office budgets of previous governors. The only supposed increase was in comparison to last year. That was the year that Governor Musgrove, during his reelection, underfunded his office budget. His own staff admitted that this was done and that more money would need to be appropriated to bring the Governor's Office budget back to the level of previous governors.

Mississippi's Mansion: Fully-Operational, Needing Repair

The Legislature has appropriated more money for Mississippi's Governor's Mansion. Since there was not a First Lady operating an office out of the Governor's Mansion during most of the Musgrove Administration, there was no office staff there. That is not the case now that Mississippi has a fully-operational First Lady's office back in the Governor's Mansion. It is also important to note that due to structural problems at the 162-year-old Mansion, long overdue repairs are underway based on recommendations from the Department of Archives and History – the authority which oversees the Mansion. The repairs are so extensive that the Governor and First Lady have spent a majority of their time since taking office living in their home in Yazoo City – at no cost to taxpayers -- and commuting back-and-forth to Jackson.

Reducing the State Planes from Three to Two

Mississippi is not spending new money on aircraft. As an efficiency measure, Governor Barbour proposed that the State sell two of its three airplanes which are costly to operate and buy one that will be cheaper to operate. Therefore, Mississippi will reduce its fleet from three to two. To make such a transaction, however, State law requires that spending authority be granted equal to the cost of the planes being sold -- \$3.5 million. This is not new money; it only represents what the State will get

back once the two aircraft are sold. Therefore, taxpayers are not spending an additional \$3.5 million on planes.

Governor Barbour has proposed and passed the largest state government streamlining plan in State history – but more importantly to taxpayers – he is leading by example.